

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Sort operations of an input signal are performed by providing a first sort part 6 comprising one shift circuit 8 and  $(l-1)$  sort circuits 9a to 9c, and a second sort part 7 comprising one delay circuit 10,  $(m-1)$  sort circuits 11a to 11c and  $m$  shift circuits 12a to 12d in a pattern synchronous circuit 100.